

**R E M A R K S**

Claims 1-6 and 11 are pending in the present application. Claims 12-14 are added. Support for claim 12 is found in claim 1 and in the specification. Specifically support for "resistance to chelating agents and oxidizing agents" is on page 2, lines 24-26; support for "heat resistance which is improved by combining the mutations" is found on page 2, line 27 to page 3, line 1; support for "having a homology of about 95% to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1" is found on page 5, lines 26-27. Support for claims 13 and 14 is found ~~in claim 1, and in the~~ specification on page 16, line 6 to page 17, line 25. No new matter is inserted into the application.

A personal interview was held with the Examiner at the United States Patent and Trademark Office on January 29, 2003. The Examiner's assistance in advancing prosecution of the present application is much appreciated.

Entry of the above amendments is earnestly solicited. Early and favorable action of the merits of the present application is respectfully requested.

If there are any minor matters precluding allowance of the application which may be resolved by a telephone discussion, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Kristi L. Rupert, Ph.D. (Reg. No. 45,702) at (703) 205-8000.

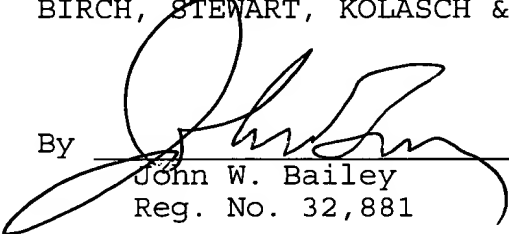
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If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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By



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Attachment: Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

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**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

In the Claims:

Claims 12-14 are added.